

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1-16.

Add the following Claims 17-31:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Cancelled).

17. (New) An apparatus for protecting a wearer's eyes and face from contact with infectious materials comprising:

a flexible frame having an outside surface;

at least one guard extending inwardly from the flexible frame, the at least one guard configured to abut the wearer's forehead when the apparatus is positioned on the wearer's head;

a plurality of projections spaced along the outside surface of the flexible frame, the projections having a head and a body; and

a transparent shield having a first portion, the first portion of the transparent shield defining a plurality of expandable openings, the expandable openings having a non-expanded size smaller than that of the head of the projections, the expandable openings providing a snap-fit over the projections, leaving no opening or space once the projection has been fit with the expandable opening.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein

each projection has a substantially circular head and a substantially circular body, the head having a diameter, the body having a diameter less than the diameter of the head; and

the openings have a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of the body of the projections, the openings having radial slits extending outwardly, the openings expanding to snap over the head of the projections.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein

the plurality of projections and the at least one guard comprise a single unit of molded plastic.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein
the flexible frame comprises steps angled inwardly for a distance forming a gripping area.
21. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein
the at least one guard comprises a first guard extending inwardly from the flexible frame along a first corner, a second guard extending inwardly from the flexible frame along a second corner.
22. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein
the transparent shield comprises a second portion defining a notch for resting on a wearer's nose.
23. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein
the transparent shield comprises a polyester material.
24. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein
the transparent shield comprises of a plastic material.
25. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
an indicator band disposed along the top portion of the transparent shield for providing a gripping surface.
26. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein
the transparent shield comprises a front surface and a back surface, the front surface and the back surface coated with an anti-fogging material.
27. (New) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein
the transparent shield is tinted a color selected from the group consisting of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet, and gray.

28. (New) A method of assembling protective eyewear comprising:

engaging a first mating structure located on a flexible frame with an expandable second mating structure located on a substantially transparent shield; the second mating structure having a snap-fit engagement with the first mating structure forming a seal about the first mating structure, allowing no liquid substance to splash, drip or pour through the seal.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the method of assembling the protective eyewear further comprises:

the step of engaging includes positioning at least one projection on an outside surface of the flexible frame coincident to a corresponding expandable second mating structure on the substantially transparent shield.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the method of assembling protective eyewear further comprises:

replacing the substantially transparent shield by

gripping an indicator band of the substantially transparent shield in assembly with the flexible frame;

disengaging the second mating structure of the substantially transparent shield from the first mating structure of the flexible frame;

gripping an indicator band of a replacement transparent shield; and

engaging the first mating structure of the flexible frame with a second mating structure of the replacement transparent shield.

31. (New) An apparatus for protecting a wearer's eyes and face from contact with infectious materials comprising:

a shielding means for preventing exposure of the wearer's eyes to infectious materials, the shielding means having a first mating means;

support means for positioning the apparatus over a wearer's ears and above a wearer's forehead, the support means having a second mating means for engaging the first mating means of the shielding means; and

guard means connected to the support means, the guard means abutting the wearer's forehead substantially eliminating exposure to the infectious materials from above the support means.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein,

the shielding means further comprises means for reducing the polluting of the shielding means with fingerprints when attaching and removing the shielding means to the flexible frame.